

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are currently pending in the application. In the October 4, 2004 office action, the Examiner checked box number 4 on the summary page, and indicated at line 4a that claims 1-28 were withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that this was an accidental error on the part of the Examiner, and that the Examiner meant to type "1-28" on line 4 instead of on line 4a. Nevertheless, Applicants would like to clarify the record, and note that claims 1-28 are currently pending in this application.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 18, 19, 22 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kumada et al. (JP 62-181319). Of these claims, claims 1 and 19 are the only independent claims of the instant application. The remaining claims were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form.

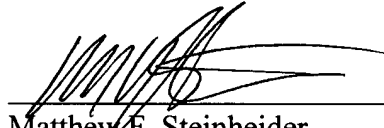
In view of the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended to include the limitation of original allowable claim 2, which has been cancelled. On the basis of the amendments to the claims as herein described and the Examiner's comments regarding allowable subject matter, the Applicants contend that the amended claims are both novel and inventive over the disclosure of Kumada et al. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

On a final note, Applicants would like to note to the Examiner that the address for correspondence used in the communication contains a mistake and should read "Akzo Nobel", (instead of "Akzo Noel", which was listed on the office action), as was duly recorded at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 30, 2002.

Applicants previously requested a three-month extension of time up to and including April 4, 2005, for filing the original response to the October 4, 2004 office action. No extension of time is believed necessary at this time, as this response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment is being filed within one month of the date that notice was mailed. However, Applicants attorney authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. 00307.0044.NPUS00.

Should the Examiner find any impediment to the prompt allowance of the claims which could be corrected by a telephone interview with the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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